

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05

AID-05 L-03 A-01 EB-07 /069 W
----- 104550

R 030109Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7177

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PASS FAS/USDA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, MX

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BUTZ'S VISIT

1. THE VISIT OF SECRETARY BUTZ FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE SCREWWORM PLANT IN TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED IN MEXICO AND GOT EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. IN HIS ADDRESS THE SECRETARY PAID TRIBUTE TO THIS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THE COMBINED USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO RID THE TWO COUNTRIES OF AN IMPORTANT LIVESTOCK PEST WHICH COULD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL COUNTRIES PULLING TOGETHER TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO REMOVE THE SPECTER OF HUNGER FROM THE WORLD SCENE. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE GOVERNOR-ELECT OF CHIAPAS, LIC. DE LA VEGA (FORMER DIRECTOR OF CONASUPO) TOLD THE AUDIENCE OF HIS APPRECIATION TO SECRETARY BUTZ FOR HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCES DURING MEXICO'S FOOD CRISIS IN 1974 THAT THE US WOULD SUPPLY ALL THE FOOD (GRAIN) NECESSARY TO MEET MEXICO'S NEEDS.

2. THE VISIT AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SECRETARY TO RENEW HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY BRAUER AND TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS TWO KEY ISSUES REMAINING WITH THE SCREWWORM PROGRAM I.I. THE AIRCRAFT PROBLEM AND THE IMMUNITY QUESTION. ON
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THE LATTER THE SECRETARY ASKED THAT USDA EMPLOYEES IN THE INTERIOR

BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS THOSE OTHER US AGENCY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN MEXICO CITY AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE--PERHAPS BY AMENDING THE AGREEMENT. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED BY THE AMBASSADOR WITH UNDERSECRETARY GALLASTEGUI WHO PROMISED TO GIVE IT HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS IN WRITING.

3. ON THE AIRPLANE QUESTION, A TEMPORARY SOLUTION HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WHEREBY AN FAM (MEXICAN AIR FORCE) OBSERVER, WHOSE PER DIEM AND EXPENSES ARE PAID FROM COMMISSION FUNDS, IS ACCOMPANYING THE US CREWS ON FLIGHTS OVER MEXICO. A COMMISSION PLANE IS FERRYING FLIES FROM TUXTLA TO LA PAZ AND US PLANES FROM MISSION (TEXAS) ARE FLYING THE DROPS OVER BAJA CALIFORNIA. THIS TEMPORARY SOLUTION HAS BEEN AGREED TO FOR A TWO-WEEK PERIOD. HOPEUFLLY, A PERMANENT SOLUTION WILL EVOLVE DURING THIS INTERIM ARRANGEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEST CONTROL, MINISTERIAL VISITS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO11322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760335-0782
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760993/aaaadbaw.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY BUTZ'S VISIT
TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, MX, US, (BUTZ, EARL L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006